

the government's policy to combat unemployment, the Prime Minister said:

1. Creating new jobs in those regions of the country and in those industries hardest hit by slowdowns, and
2. Providing additional assistance to those individual Canadians facing the greatest hardship.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the government has failed in both objectives. If time permits I shall show where they failed in objective No. 1. In the second area they have failed by refusing to give the provinces a better deal under the Canada Assistance Plan to cope with the extraordinarily high welfare payments which the provinces have to pay as a result of the government-inspired high unemployment.

They have failed in the first instance, as indicated by the most recent figures showing the performance of the Regional Development Incentives Act up to November 30, 1970. They show conclusively that the program does not create jobs in the disadvantaged areas; that it creates jobs in the areas of highest employment and lowest unemployment. For example, the number of jobs created per application in the province of Newfoundland was three; the number created per application in Prince Edward Island was 26; the number created in Nova Scotia was 20; the number created in New Brunswick was 19; the number of jobs per application in Quebec was 60 and the number per application in Ontario was 77. That province has the lowest unemployment and highest employment. In that province were created the greatest number of jobs per application under this program. And so it goes across the country.

● (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. I do so to say that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the House agree unanimously to allow the hon. member to continue?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): For one minute.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I will not take advantage of the indulgence of the House. I merely want to conclude that part of my remarks which refers to the Prime Minister's statement about the success of the government's regional development policies in creating new jobs. My point was that the number of new jobs per application was highest in the provinces with low unemployment and lowest in the provinces with the highest unemployment.

I think the statistics I have placed on record, beginning with those for Newfoundland, the province with the highest unemployment in the country and with the lowest number of jobs per application, and ending with Ontario which has the lowest unemployment in the country and the highest number of jobs per application, show the failure of the government's regional development program. I shall place other statistics on the record during a future debate which will show the futility and

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utter failure of the government's regional development policies in coping with the very serious problem of unemployment in this country. More particularly, they will show the failure of the government's regional development policy in fulfilling the obligation placed upon it by Parliament; the obligation of creating an economic climate in the regionally disadvantaged areas of the country which will make it possible for the people of those areas to find suitable employment.

[Translation]

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, my remarks will not exceed the time allowed members for the present debate.

Since today is an allotted day set aside for the opposition, it is quite normal that more opposition members than government members are present. The simple reason for that is that they want to air their grievances against the government.

To criticize is easy, and I find it rather strange that opposition members should do today what they have always done, that is to base their criticism on non valid and unfounded arguments. It is always easy to criticize when one is a member of the opposition, because one always dreams of being one day on this side of the House.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, a sentence written by Jean Rostand which I quoted last Friday: One may say that science has made men out of us without first having made us people worthy of the quality of human beings. I could say of the hon. members of the opposition that politics has made gods of them before giving them the quality of true politicians. That may be why they have not been listened to very attentively by the government and why their criticism, which could often be constructive, most frequently shows hatred and lack of responsibility.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) tabled in the House not long ago a white paper on social security which I could qualify as a masterpiece. The matter was under consideration for several years and was well established. In view of the available tax revenues, it was the best policy which the federal government could carry out, in order to help underprivileged citizens. He accepted the principle of redistribution and selectivity rather than that of universality. It is a principle which is all to his credit and this without burdening further the budget of our fellow citizens.

Those various programmes will inject almost half a billion dollars into the economy in favour of the underprivileged. It is an extremely satisfying initiative which will certainly enable a great number of people to have a more decent living than at the present time.

This principle was studied, worked on and analysed by several experts who finally opted for selectivity rather than universality. It is simple: 70 per cent of Canadians draw a salary of less than \$10,000 per year. Obviously, we had to redistribute the money in a better way, so as to increase their standard of living and to pull these